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FAC News to Use

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Finance Cabinet Heavily Involved in New Broadband Initiative Recently Announced

Last week Gov. Steve Beshear joined Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers to announce an ambitious state and federal investment to extend critically-needed high-speed broadband Internet access to the furthest reaches of the Commonwealth.

Already, many Finance Cabinet representatives have been pulling together data and information that will help guide this project over the next several years.

The initial phase of the Next Generation Kentucky Information Highway project, estimated to cost approximately \$100 million, could take up to two to three years to build nearly 3,000 miles of fiber infrastructure, which is often referred to as the "middle" mile.

The project will incorporate the current and best available technology at a speed of up to 100 gigabits per second. Where available, existing fiber will be used. The underserved eastern Kentucky region will be the first priority area for the project, which will be supported by \$60 million in state bonds and \$40 million in federal and private sources.

"This world-class Internet infrastructure will bring high-speed Internet, or broadband, closer to communities throughout the state," said Finance Secretary Lori H. Flanery. "It opens up possibilities for Kentuckians to connect with the world at the highest speeds available, allowing them to truly participate in today's global environment."

Since 2010, the Kentucky Office of Broadband Outreach and Development (OBOD) in the Finance Cabinet has focused on identifying and mapping areas across the state that are unserved or underserved by affordable broadband service. Using that information and working with public partners, such as the Council on Postsecondary Education, along with

private providers, the Finance and Administration Cabinet provided guidance to the governor about the Next Generation Kentucky Information Highway project.

According to Brian Kiser, head of OBOD, currently, Kentucky ranks 46th in high-speed broadband Internet availability. Nearly a quarter of the Commonwealth's population -- 23 percent -- have no access to broadband. The Next Generation Kentucky Information Highway will offer affordable and accessible high-speed broadband to reduce the barriers of geography for businesses and citizens.

"The new 'Super I-way' will level the playing field. It takes away our historic barriers to better jobs, the difficult terrain and isolation. All of a sudden, the world is flat and the famed superior work ethic of our people will be able to compete with the world from home."

- Congressman Hal Rogers

"Access to high-speed and high-quality Internet is no longer a luxury; it's a necessity in the 21st century economy. Businesses and schools demand it," said Gov. Beshear. "Our communities that lack reliable high-speed access will lag behind in economic development, distance learning and advanced health technologies, and that's unacceptable."

The initiative will be a partnership of government at all levels and the private sector. The private-public partnership -- often referred to as a P3 -- allows the state to leverage resources to fill service gaps.

"This is an ambitious project and one that is extremely important for all of Kentucky," said Sec. Flanery. "We are on an aggressive timeline. I'm impressed with the data we've gathered and the work we have already done in preparation for this initiative."

The Finance Cabinet has received responses to a request for proposal from consultants who are interested in working on the Next Generation Kentucky Information Highway project. The consultant will validate cost estimates and provide guidance on the most efficient and effective way to proceed with the project.

New Deputy General Counsel Named



Doug Hendrix, has been named deputy general counsel for the Finance and Administration Cabinet. Prior to this position, Hendrix served 10 years with the Department of Revenue and two years with the Public Service Commission. Before joining state government he worked in private practice.

Doug graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a BBA in marketing and obtained his law degree from the University of Louisville School of Law. He resides in Frankfort with his wife, Laura, three children, Madeleine, Sydney and Cooper, and Gordon the Super Dog.

Are You Eligible for the EITC?

Many Kentuckians fail to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which can bring an extra cash infusion to those who take advantage of the credit.

Families with three qualifying children who earned up to about \$51,000 in 2013 are eligible for this benefit. The average refund is \$2,200 per household—that's real money that goes directly in Kentucky wallets.

The IRS estimates, however, that approximately 20 percent of eligible workers fail to claim this benefit every year.

Eligibility Levels & EITC Refund Amounts

# of Children	Max Income Filing Single	Max Income Married Filing Jointly	Maximum Possible EITC Refund
0	\$14,340	\$19,680	\$487
1	\$37,870	\$43,210	\$3,250
2	\$43,038	\$48,378	\$5,372
3 or more	\$46,227	\$51,567	\$6,044

HR News

HR News

HR News

HR News

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IMPORTANT: Tax Preparation Notice

Individuals using tax preparation software are reporting that the five digit identification number (77156) located on the W2 is not being accepted. If you experience this problem, please be advised that adding a zero to the beginning of that number (077156) should resolve the issue.

Health Insurance Update: Fulfilling the Living Well Promise

HumanaVitality Registration & Health Assessment



If you said **YES** to the **LivingWell Promise** when you signed up for medical insurance, then you need to complete the online HumanaVitality Health Assessment between Jan. 1—May 1, 2014 and ensure that your information in the KHRIS employee self service site is current. If you fail to complete the assessment, then next year you will only be eligible for Standard plan options in 2015.

You must take the HumanaVitality Health Assessment to complete the LivingWell Promise.

Follow these steps for easy registration:

- 1) Go to LivingWell.ky.gov and click on the HumanaVitality login.
- 2) *First time* users must register with Humana.com. Click on "register now" and complete required fields. Have your SSN and 9-digit member ID found on your Humana ID card available as you register. Verify your information, create a username and password. After completing registration, return to HumanVitality to sign in using your newly created username/password. *Returning users* sign in using your username/password.
- 3) Once signed in, click on the alert to "Take the Health Assessment." You'll be asked for your medical history and key measurements. If you had a Vitality Check (biometric screening) within the last 18 months, those results will be pre-populated into your health assessment. These cannot be updated until a new Vitality Check is submitted. To find a VitalityCheck location near you, visit LivingWell.ky.gov.
- 4) Receive your Vitality Age base on your health assessment responses. HumanaVitality will then recommend goals for you to select that you want to work on.



Updating KHRIS ESS Contact Information:

- 1) Go to KHRIS.ky.gov and log in.
- 2) *Current KHRIS ESS users* enter your KHRIS User ID and password, click on "log on." New KHRIS ESS users need to click on the "Forgot/Reset Password or New User" link. Enter your KHRIS user ID and click validate. You'll have to provide personal information and then click on "authenticate." You'll receive a temporary password (copy or write it down). Return to KHRIS.ky.gov, log on, change your temporary password and create a new password.
- 3) Once logged on, click "Personal Information" to update/ensure accuracy of your address, email and phone numbers.
- 4) Once completed, click on "Review." If correct, click "Save," otherwise click "Previous Step" and revise your entries. Once complete, click on "Log off."